

October 8, 2019 Minutes – Board of Pharmacy Office, Concord NH  
Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician Work Group

Attendees – John Genovese (NHBOP), Gary Merchant (NHBOP), Tina Genovese, Bob Stout, Stuart Tracy (NHACDS), Michael Bullek (NHBOP), Anne Fellows (NACDS), Brett Conroy (Hannaford), Maryann Cooper (NHPA), Breanne Piazik (Elliott Hospital), Kaitlyn Simoneau (Shaw's/Osco), Stephanie Bleau (Rite Aid), Kate Chisholm (Rite Aid), Melissa Wilson (Cheshire Medical), Ryan Burke (PTCB), Janet Silvester (ASHP), Emily Jalbert (Rite Aid), Joe Allen (Pillpack), Lindsey Fontaine (Wal-Mart), Julie Hegle (VTHiTEC), David DePiero (Concord Hospital), Roy Courchaine (Rite Aid), Rachel Sahagun (Walgreens), Nathaniel Sides (Hannaford)

Via phone: Ann Burns (APhA), Allie Jo Simpson (NASPA), Jessica Langley (NHA), Jeenu Philip (Walgreens), Kathy Bryant (Price Chopper), Christopher Rochon (Pillpack)

This was the third meeting of a board of pharmacy work group created to develop rules related to a new category of licensure, Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician or LAPT. The group met from 9AM until Noon with several attending via tele-conference.

- 1) Meeting opened at 9:05AM by the Chair (John Genovese) with introductions.
- 2) Motion by Maryann Cooper, second by Bob Stout to approve the September minutes. Motion was approved with unanimous consent.
- 3) Julie Helge from VT HiTEC made a presentation to the group regarding 'Apprenticeship Programs' designed and tailored to specific employer requirements for a pharmacy technician. Two examples of such programs were ones developed for Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon NH and for Cheshire Medical Center in Keene NH. Programs combine education and on the job experience in a structured, organized manner, allowing individuals to learn, then to earn. Graduates from these programs have a pass rate of the Pharmacy Technician Certification exam near 90% compared to a national pass rate of 58%. More in-depth discuss is expected during the next meeting in December about how to the use such opportunities to prepare individuals for licensure as a Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician.
- 4) Scope of Practice – work group had a robust discussion to define the scope of practice for a Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician. Initial discussion focused on creating a list of duties to be allowed in the scope of practice. Following a spirited and challenging discussion on creating such a list, the group changed focus from a creating a list of allowed duties, to creating a list of duties not allowed in the scope of practice (based on NABP 1999 Task Force Resolution).

Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician will work under the general supervision of a licensed pharmacist and will be legally accountable and responsible for their own actions. Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technicians will be allowed to supervise work of a certified pharmacy technician or registered pharmacy technician.

5) Group consensus on defining the scope of practice:

A Licensed Advance Pharmacy Technician scope of practice, under general supervision of a licensed pharmacist, shall allow the licensee to perform all activities a licensed pharmacist may legally perform, except the following:

- a) Drug Utilization Review (evaluate or interpret a prescription or drug order)
- b) Clinical Conflict Resolution
- c) Contacting the prescriber regarding alteration or modification of the therapy
- d) Patient counseling related to the clinical use of a medication
- e) Verify a compounded medication
- f) Perform any duty that requires clinical judgement (need to define clinical judgement)
- g) Perform any duty that a State or Federal law requires a licensed pharmacist to perform

6) Examinations

- a) Group began discussion on examinations – law and knowledge based.
- b) **Law Exam** - NABP extended an offer for certified technicians to take the Pre-Law exam, an online test exam, compliments of NABP. The board and individuals at the meeting will contact certified technicians regarding taking the exam. Goal of taking the pre-law exam, to assess certified technician's knowledge of the law, State and Federal. Mike Bullek will handle logistics and coordination with NABP including how to collect demographics as practice setting, years working as a certified technician and as a registered technician to assist in the assessment.

NABP will waive the \$65 fee for the exam which is 40 questions over 50 minutes. The exam can be taken online, that is, it does not require an individual to travel to a test center. Looking for 50-75 candidates across various practice setting and various years as a certified technician. Goal is to finish the process no later than November 15 to allow time for NABP to collate and return blinded data except for demographics.

- c) **Knowledge Based Exam** – Group discussed a knowledge-based exam for a Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician. As no such exam exist today, work needs to be done to create such an exam. Key members of the group will jointly discuss available resources to create such an exam and report back at the December meeting. Members of the group include Janet Silvester (ASHP), Ryan Burke (PTCB), Julie Helge (VT HiTEC), Ann Burns (APhA), and Jessica Langley (NHA). The NH Board of Pharmacy will need to create an RFP to create such an exam, and the RFP should be based on findings from the sub-group.

Funding for creating the exam will be essential as the State of NH lacks funds in the current budget. Anne Fellows will reach out to the NACDS Educational Foundation regarding a grant to assist with the cost.

7) Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2019. The meeting will be held at the NH Hospital Association, located at **125 Airport Road, Concord NH**, from 9A to Noon.

Focus of the next meeting –

- a) defining the educational, experiential, and training requirements for licensure of a Licensed Advanced Pharmacy Technician.
- b) reviewing results of the NABP pre-law exam taken by certified technicians and deciding on next steps.

Submitted by Gary Merchant

October 9, 2019